

Notes from Group 1

Please note, the following notes were typed up directly from the flip chart notes taken at the meeting. City staff are currently working to identify consistent concerns and common themes, which will be posted separately.

Comments, Questions and Discussion

- Information is Jefferson Park oriented (update will incorporate)

Neighborhood Questions:

1. Were you aware that projects discussed happened as a result of the neighborhood plan?
 - New to neighborhood – mildly aware- neighborhood has done good communication job, but hard to patch it all together
 - Sometime maybe too much planning
 - Need to connect projects to overall plan
 - Visual with accomplished and upcoming projects would be useful
 - Good to have meetings- helpful to give a sense of all projects and how they interact

Continue w/two focuses (Urban villages and Jefferson)

- How was the urban village boundary defined” is a more holistic view of the neighbor possible
- Urban village – buildings are fracturing. The Beacon Hill neighborhood became separate

What projects or areas of planning do you think the neighborhood should focus on this year?

- Density followed by affordable housing
- North Beacon is left out of planning (1/2 of the people at the table are not on the map)
- Redo planning efforts to focus on where people are
- Rethink boundaries
- South Beacon areas are missing too – not everyone feels included in the plan
- Original fire station north of pea patch
- Look to history where business popped up to save micro-villages
- Lack of services in north North Beacon Hill
- Beacon Hill could have micro-centers
- Overlapping communities
- We need affordable housing – Beacon towers is only SHA affordable housing on Beacon
- Embrace pedestrian plaza– it may change the neighborhood center
- Change zoning at open space near El Centro – Retail, affordable housing
- South of El Centro owned property suggests change to NC65 – Maintain flexibility on site.

Is the neighborhood approval and adoption matrix a valuable implementation tool for the City and the neighborhood?

- Matrix allows focus – expand and refine
- Useful tool
- What are the other options – should look at best practices in other cities – other options

History

- Fragmented community
- Community endorsed – preferred bike trail (I-5 trail)

Notes from Group 1

- All green space on west of Beacon should be under one ownership/Management
- Environmentally, Beacon is Fragmented
- Opportunity to look at community from ecological stand point.
 - Connect Chief Sealth trail to Mountain to Sound greenway
- Want to cleanup parks / clean up native plant
- Planning opportunity to bring parks together
- Clarity on jurisdiction regarding open space and coordination

City Questions:

What makes your neighborhood the place you've chosen to work, live, or shop? *Follow up:* What would make it better?

- Affordable (closest place to downtown that is affordable)
- Mobility – walk and bike to work and services
- Hardly have to leave Beacon Hill – Really flexible having everything in walking distance
- Want bookstore/natural food bakery
- Such a strong care/locality
- Not wheelchair accessible – mobility challenges
- Two years – Traffic – Beacon is cut through to downtown – problematic
- Beacon gets congested – long commute times
- Bus times of 36, 60 are crazy – Metro headways are slow
- Diversity
- Well-located for car travel 5-20 mile out of city
- People are friendly, involved, live and let live attitude
- People are interested in neighborhood, but don't get involved in your life
- Civic engagement and sweat equity

How do think housing will change on Beacon Hill in the future and what kind of housing do you think will benefit Beacon Hill as new residents arrive? Changing housing costs could potentially affect some residents—where and for whom do you see the greatest potential challenge?

- More affordable housing
- Homeless is an issue –need a facility
- History of the jungle as an encampment for the homeless - need homeless facility
- El Centro provides some services – a hot meal
- Existing services for food but not housing
- Dearborn/Goodwill impacts
 - Traffic
- Concerned small businesses will be displaced by the Goodwill development
- Foresee more townhomes – concerned about design – some good some bad
- Reach out to town home owners to get them involved in community
- People who rent are/want as involved in the community
- How are neighborhoods prepared for an influx of people/cars – how to accommodate?

Notes from Group 1

- Wants to see/maintain a diversity of homes – maintain single family housing for a diversity of people – encourage appropriate design – explore different configurations , like L shaped low rise buildings
- Zoning – townhomes? Is there design oversight?
- Worried – lack of signage for mobility impaired
- Promote more Accessory Dwelling Units – (ADUs)
- More housing at lower prices – built well
- Design really important
- ADU opportunity, but needs oversight
- State representatives are disengaged – do not advocate for residents – look to City to support neighborhood plan effort and process and stop the State (in regarding to HB 1490)
- Futurewise
- Need advocate at State level
- No parking planned– Sound Transit
- Someway to address access to Sound Transit stations – not parking lots.
 - Parking stations, shuttles
- Recommend Sound Transit and Metro attend future Neighborhood Planning meetings (but not take over)

What unique character of your commercial district gives it its identity and what would you like to see preserved? *Follow up:* What types of goods, services and employment would you like to see near the transit stations, in your local business districts and accessible to the community?

- Want Pizza place
- Preserve Red Apple, El Centro, ABC
- Small industrial business
- Don't want –blank facades with no services
- Use empty storefronts to exhibit art (like in Columbia City)
- More transparency on store front facades
- Stores accessible by walking
- Shoe repair and movie theater
- Celebrate and beautify the identity of neighborhood banners, flower pots
- Gas stations have too much land
- Building facades to sidewalk – liberate land
- Reclaim West greenbelt open space –program for a diversity

As the neighborhood grows what kinds of amenities would you like to see added to the center?

Examples: open space, pedestrian access, bus, bike or other improvements.

- More family low income housing
- Pedestrian access to SODO
- Clean, maintain and light stairways
- More trees – shading

Notes from Group 1

- Improve pedestrian desirability of streets
- More diverse retail.
- More immigrant, refugee, and locally owned businesses
- Dedicated bike path
- "Bike Station" next to Sound Transit
- Store, rent and repair bikes
- Bike Rental center
- Zip Car Station all over in key locations
- Electric car charging

What kinds of public benefits should accompany new development?

- More sidewalks
- Private money to fund for more access (SB5548)
- Developers pay to improve alleys – other options
- Lights at a pedestrian scale
- Tree and flower planting
- Street signage for streets that have changed (direction, from two way to one way)
- Language – challenge to get people involved – how to include residents to involve in Neighborhood planning whose English is not first language
- Celebrate diversity of neighborhood

Sustainable Development" has been defined as: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." What would "sustainable development" look like in your community?

- Diversity of housing types – preserve flex, diversity of ages so that it can evolve over time
- Accommodate family, elderly
- Would like to see principals in sustainable development defined by neighborhood
- Open (not gated) community
- Involve new development don't cut off from surrounding community
- Encourage new business to reach out to community – Maybe through local chamber
- A restaurant in PACMED – great views

Will you be using the light rail? If yes, how will you get to the station nearest to where you live?

- Closer to walk than take Sound Transit
- Only if not too confusing - signage needs to be clear and understandable to non English speakers as well as English speakers
- This is an intergeneration community
- Intergenerational/Senior senior friendly
- Space for cultural activities
- Flexible to accommodate cultural practices
- Concern over safety at night

Notes from Group 1

- Needs to be safely accessible 24/7
- Safety – hindrance to using Sound Transit
- Alcohol access concern – Alcohol impact area should be extended to Beacon Hill – Beacon Hill is the closest area to downtown for alcohol access
- New alcohol impact area
- Beacon Hill receives better respect from City than other neighborhoods
- Safety: more community officers – not full patrol (intimidating)
- Drug deals across school
- Light rail needs to be affordable

Summary Group 1 Wrap Up

Creating choices for Living, Working and Recreating

What makes your neighborhood the place you've chosen to work, live, or shop? Follow Up: What would make it better?

- Invest in local, small businesses – immigrant owned diversity, opportunities to create green spaces, open space that serves all the different ethnicities, places, in Beacon, affordable, it has character. We love this neighborhood.

How do you think housing will change on Beacon Hill in the future and what kind of housing do you think will benefit Beacon Hill as new residents arrive? Changing housing costs could potentially affect some residents – where and for whom do you see the greatest potential challenge?

- More low-income housing, a facility for chronic homeless, housing that accommodates different types of families and ages, we would like to see/encourage design/Architecture that ensures the Target/Goodwill redevelopment won't have a negative impact

What unique character of your commercial district gives it its identity and what would you like to see preserved? Follow up: What types of goods, services and employment would you like to see near the transit stations, in your local business districts and accessible to the community?

- Local, Small Business owned by our residents, immigrants, refugees – restaurants, grocery store, natural, coffee shops, bookstore, empty space p celebrate Beacon's identity – Banners/light posts

As the neighborhood grows what kinds of amenities would you like to see added to the center?

Examples: open space, pedestrian access, bus, bike or other improvements.

- Clean and maintain stairways, move trees reclaim greenbelt, pedestrian access to SODO retain small/neighborhood owned business open space program

What kinds of public benefits should accompany new development?

- Dedicated Bike Park, bike station, bike rental, improve pedestrian desirability streets and avenues, electric car station and zip car.

Notes from Group 1

Sustainability

- Develop sustainability principles sustainable development by neighborhood so we have a shared vision to guide our development
- Open not gated communities

Sustainable Development "has been defined as: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." What would "sustainable development" look like in your community?

- Intergenerational community with activities, housing, open space for elderly, children, families, women, etc.

Will you be using the light rail? If yes, how will you get to the station nearest to where you live?

- Yes and we would like to see encourage use signage in different languages or symbols.